AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Previously Presented)   A knitting method using a stretch yarn for knitting a fabric with a stretch yarn by a knitting machine capable of controlling yarn tension, comprising:

predetermining data specifying relationships between a feed length of the stretch yarn to be used for knitting fed to the knitting machine and a yarn length in a finished state of a knitted fabric obtained by shape memory properties of the stretch yarn, by changing gradually yarn tension of the stretch yarn; specifying the finished state of the knitted fabric;
and

forming a fabric while feeding the stretch yarn to the knitting machine according to the finished state specified, the yarn tension having the relationships to the data, and the feed length of the stretch yarn.

2. (Previously Presented)   The knitting method of claim 1, wherein the finished state is specified by the stitch loop length of the knitted fabric and the yarn tension.

3.　(Previously Presented)　The knitting method of claim 1, further comprising:

preparing paper pattern data expressing a shape of a knitted product to be formed of the fabric using the stretch yarn, and a feeling sample to be knitted by using said stretch yarn and varying the yarn tension and the stitch loop length of the fabric being knitted;

performing the specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric based on the feeling sample; and

creating knitting control information for knitting the knitted product with the knitting machine according to the specified finished state and the paper pattern data, thereby to form the knitted fabric according to the knitting control information created.

4.　(Previously Presented)　A knitting apparatus using a stretch yarn for knitting a fabric with a stretch yarn by a knitting machine, comprising:

data storage means for predetermining and storing data specifying relationships between a feed length of the stretch yarn to be used for knitting fed to the knitting machine and a yarn length in a finished state of a knitted fabric obtained by shape memory properties of the stretch yarn, by changing gradually yarn tension of the stretch yarn;

specification input means for inputting a specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric; and

control means for creating control data for forming a knitted

fabric with reference to the data stored in the data storage means, while feeding the stretch yarn in the feed length and under the yarn tension corresponding to the finished state of the knitted fabric, so that the knitted fabric is brought into the finished state inputted to the specification input means.

5. (Previously Presented) The knitting apparatus of claim 4, wherein

the data to be stored in the data storage means contains gauge feeling data indicating a knitting needle array density necessary for a case in which a fabric having a feeling on a stitch loop length equivalent to that of the finished state of the knitted fabric is to be knitted with a knitting yarn other than the stretch yarn, and

the specification input means can also specify the finished state with the gauge feeling data.

6. (New) The knitting apparatus of claim 4, wherein

the data storage means is prepared with data specifying the relationships on the stretch yarn and the knitting texture for predetermined references; and

the data storage means contains not only that data but also data on correction coefficients to the data which are used in a case where other stretch yarns and knitting structures are used and which are concerned with a standard stretch yarn and a standard knitting texture.

7.   (New) The knitting method of claim 2, further comprising:

preparing paper pattern data expressing a shape of a knitted product to be formed of the fabric using the stretch yarn, and a feeling sample to be knitted by using said stretch yarn and varying the yarn tension and the stitch loop length of the fabric being knitted;

performing the specification of the finished state of the knitted fabric based on the feeling sample; and

creating knitting control information for knitting the knitted product with the knitting machine according to the specified finished state and the paper pattern data, thereby to form the knitted fabric according to the knitting control information created.

8.   (New) The knitting apparatus of claim 5, wherein

the data storage means is prepared with data specifying the relationships on the stretch yarn and the knitting texture for predetermined references; and

the data storage means contains not only that data but also data on correction coefficients to the data which are used in a case where other stretch yarns and knitting structures are used and which are concerned with a standard stretch yarn and a standard knitting texture.